



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **PROPERTY OWNERS GIVEN LAST CHANCE TO PAY SEWER BILL** *LACK OF PAYMENT WILL RESULT IN PROPERTY LIENS*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is notifying private property owners, by mail, of delinquent sewer bills in an effort to avoid the placement of a lien on their property.

DPW is sending out 27,772 requests for payment, totaling more than \$2.6 million in unpaid sewer charges. This will be the last opportunity for property owners to prevent a lien from being placed on their property, to prevent their sewer charges from being added to their next property tax bills and to avoid additional administrative fees.

**In order to avoid lien action, payments must be received by March 16, 2011. All payments should be sent to Indianapolis Water, the city's billing and collection agent, at P.O. Box 1990, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Payments may also be made in person at any ACE Check Cashing or Citizens Gas locations.

The courts have determined that placing a lien on a property is an appropriate action for Indianapolis to pursue, but it is the City's last resort. Other collection methods for non-payment of sewer fees, exercised regularly by the City, include water service disconnection and legal action. Customers who owe less than \$11 or whose payment is delinquent for less than 60 days will not be sent letters. These charges will automatically be added to the next property tax statement if not paid by March 16, 2011.

In 1977, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) mandated sewer bills to cover the cost of operating and maintaining advanced wastewater treatment plants and sewage facilities. Sewer fees are used to pay for both of the City's sewage treatment plants as well as raw sewage overflow capital improvement projects.

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